



A coalition of cancer organizations
joining together to advocate for
cancer research

Carolyn R. Aldige,
President

Donald S. Coffey, Ph.D.
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Member Organizations

Albert and Mary
Lasker Foundation

American Association
for Cancer Research

American Cancer
Society, Inc.

American College
of Radiology

American Society for
Therapeutic Radiology
and Oncology

American Society of
Clinical Oncology

American Society
of Hematology

Association of American
Cancer Institutes

Cancer Research
and Prevention Foundation

Cancer Treatment
Research Foundation

Candlelighters
Childhood Cancer
Foundation

CaP CURE -
Association for the Cure
of Cancer of the Prostate

Coalition of National Cancer
Cooperative Groups, Inc.

Lymphoma Research
Foundation

International Foundation
for Anticancer Drug
Discovery

International Myeloma Foundation

Kidney Cancer Association

The Lustgarten Foundation for
Pancreatic Cancer Research

National Childhood
Cancer Foundation

Oncology Nursing
Society

PanCAN
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

Radiation Research
Society

The Society of
Gynecologic
Oncologists

The V Foundation for
Cancer Research

May 12, 2005

**The Honorable Michael N. Castle
United States House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515**

Dear Representative Castle:

National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR) is a coalition of 22 leading cancer research, cancer care and patient organizations representing cancer patients, survivors, families, cancer researchers, nurses and physicians, cancer hospitals, centers, clinics and specialized research institutions. The NCCR directs its efforts at educating public policy officials about the impact of specific legislation on cancer research. Specifically, the NCCR advocates on behalf of legislation which will enhance and expand basic, translational and clinical research and ensure the infrastructure and reimbursement mechanisms are in place to support the translation of research from the laboratory to the patient. The NCCR supports these goals in their broadest terms, emphasizing national priorities essential to progress in cancer research, treatment, early detection and prevention.

The undersigned National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR) member organizations are writing to express their support for H.R. 810 and S. 471, the "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005."

Scientific research using human embryonic stem cells holds extraordinary potential in fighting many life-threatening diseases, including cancer. We believe the "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005" achieves a balanced approach that will enable scientists to expand this important area of scientific exploration while maintaining the basic framework of existing federal policy.

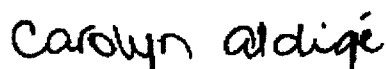
This legislation authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct and support research using stem cells derived from human embryos that have been donated from in vitro fertilization clinics, were created for the purposes of fertility treatment and were in excess of the clinical need. It requires prior consultation with prospective donors to determine the embryos would never be implanted in a woman and would otherwise be discarded. Finally, the legislation requires written informed consent from donors and assurance they have not received any financial or other inducements to make the donation. We also support the provision to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health, to issue final guidelines not later than 60 days after the date of enactment.

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For the above reasons, the following NCCR member organizations respectfully urge the United States Senate and House of Representatives to support passage of the "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005 (H.R. 810 and S. 471).

Sincerely,



Carolyn R. Aldigé
President

American Association for Cancer Research
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Hematology
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National Childhood Cancer Foundation
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, Inc. (PanCAN)
Radiation Research Society
The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
The V Foundation for Cancer Research